Tribals in the Country

2857. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of tribes at present in the country;

(b) whether all these tribes are Scheduled Tribes and enjoy the benefits available to them; and

.(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBALAFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) There are 706 tribal communities which, along with their 874 sub-groups/ synonyms, have been notified as Scheduled Tribes in different States and UTs of the country under Article 342 of the Constitution. Only those tribal communities which are notified under Article 342 of the Constitution are entitled to enjoy the benefits available for STs.

Amendment in the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill

2858. SHRI URKHAO GWARA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Scheduled Tribe (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill drafted earlier is going to be changed and the right will now include not only tribals but all the forest dwellers;

(b) if so, whether it will not be dilution of basic objective of the Bill; and

(c) whether it will be possible to prevent the encroachments in the forest under such generalized law in future?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13.12.2005 was referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament. The Joint Committee of Parliament, which examined the said Bill, presented its report to the Lok Sabha on 23.5.2006, which was also laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Joint Committee

of Parliament has made several amendments to the said Bill and reported a revised Bill titled "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006". The Bill as amended was passed by the Lok Sabha on 15th December, 2006.

Grants to NGOs of Orissa

2859. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released any grants/aids for the NGOs of Orissa during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 as on date;

(b) if so, the schemes under which Government have approved the proposal and released the fund for different NGOs (names and locations) details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is pending for consideration from Orissa; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, by when Government would sanction these pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grants have been released in favour of NGOs in respect of Orissa under the scheme of Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and the scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of Women's Literacy in Tribal Areas, during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. The details of proposals approved and funds released under these schemes to the NGOs, are given in statement-l and II. (See below).

(c) and (d) The State Government of Orissa has recommended 78 project proposals of NGOs under various schemes funded by this Ministry for 2006-07. Out of these, 17 projects have already been sanctioned and 13 other projects have been processed. For other cases, the State Government has not submitted complete proposals.